

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal	T19 - E14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) Service Review
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Department	Economy, Transport and Environment
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Description of Service / Policy

Hampshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) are a network of 26 sites (including those in Southampton and Portsmouth) where residents can bring and deposit their household waste. The centres then manage this waste, arranging for its reuse, recycling, or disposal as appropriate. It is a universal service, available to all Hampshire residents.

Geographical impact* All Hampshire

Description of proposed change

To achieve a significant reduction against the on going cost of managing Hampshire's Waste Recycling Centres network. Hampshire currently provides more HWRCs than comparable authorities, with almost 85% of the population currently within five miles of an HWRC. Closure of up to half of the HWRCs network will result in longer travel distances for some users in order to dispose of their waste. There is also the potential for amended opening hours across the HWRC network, which could either limit or enhance users' ability to access the service dependant on location. Subject to a change in the law, an introduction of a nominal charge for access to the HWRCs would have an impact upon service users who would be obliged to make a small financial contribution to dispose of their waste. However, this would also eliminate the need for site closures.

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

No specific consultation has been carried out on this proposal, however, the County Council carried out a major public consultation exercise over the Summer 2017 on a range of options for finding further budget savings including increasing council tax, using reserves and making changes to the way in which services are delivered, which may mean reducing or withdrawing certain services. The outcome of this consultation will be presented to Cabinet in October 2017.

When decisions are made to pursue the options, further specific consultation will be carried out with stakeholders on the detailed options where required.

Hampshire County Council consulted on similar proposals as part of its proposed 2017 programme of savings, details of which may be viewed in the report presented to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport's Decision Day on the 22nd July 2016.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Statutory considerations

Impact

Age	Neutral
Disability	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	Neutral
Race	Neutral
Religion and Belief	Neutral
Gender Reassignment	Neutral
Gender	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral

Other policy considerations

Poverty Impact	Low Possible requirement to travel further to sites and incur increased petrol costs, which may impact upon lower income residents disproportionately. If legal changes make charging for access permissible, poorer people will be disproportionately affected by virtue of their being less able to pay.
Rurality Impact	Low Smaller rural HWRC sites are under possible threat of closure. Rural residents may have to make longer journeys to access the service.
Mitigation	

Additional Information

The review will look at re-provisioning of remaining HWRC infrastructure in support of best available geographical coverage for the overall network. This should help mitigate some of the impacts upon the groups considered above.

Engagement will be undertaken with local residents in advance of any closures to help identify best options for future HWRC use.

A further impact assessment will be undertaken in advance of any executive decisions.